



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
Maryland Park
Stratford
London E15 1HB

Tel: 020 8534 0476
Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk
Website: www.st-francis.newham.sch.uk

1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you and your family remain safe and well.

The prime minister announced last week about the possible re-opening of schools from the 8th March, we do not yet have any information about that or if that date is confirmed. Once we know more we will be in touch with you about how the school re-opening will work at St Francis'.

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

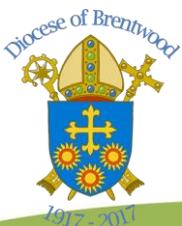
²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

We live in a world where we experience violence, greed, hunger and immoral actions. This means that, we sometimes struggle to believe that we will overcome when times are difficult. Let's ask God to help us to see that He is at work in the small signs of love, justice and truth around us.

Safer Internet Day

We will be celebrating **Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, 9th February 2021**. The theme this year is **An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**; there will be a variety of activities on Google Classroom on this day. Safer Internet Day 2021 celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst also looking at how we can separate fact from fiction.



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

Peace, Love, Knowledge



The campaign focuses on how we can know what to trust online, supporting pupils to question, challenge and change the online world. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can appear online and why this may happen. It will also look at the emotional impact navigating a misleading online world can have on pupils and why it is important to create a supportive, critical and questioning culture online that encourages debate and discussion. We want to give the children the skills to support one another and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

We will have virtual Safer Internet Day assemblies led by Ms Alexander, our Computing Leader at the following times on Monday, 8th February 2021 using the link below:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTU4OTE2Mjg4NDQ1?cjc=4kexkkq>

9:30 - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

10:10 - Years 3 and 4

11:00 - Years 5 and 6

Google Classroom Questions and Answers

We know that Google Classroom is a new initiative and you may have questions about how to use for remote learning. We would like to hear your questions by using the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zaxrf7cPpbjcfT6l3Us82PyJ05ZxNi7TSuYxpbP3G98/edit?usp=sharing>

We will have a Questions and Answers session to go through the questions related to Google Classroom on Wednesday, 3rd February at 11:00. A link will be sent separately for the meeting.

Microsoft Coding Workshops

Last week, we sent out information about a great opportunity for children in years 1-6 to be involved in free live coding workshops sponsored by Microsoft and Royal Initiative Against Poverty and Starvations (RIAPS). This is an excellent educational opportunity for your child and it's free. Please see the attached flyer. Register your interest by emailing contact@riaps.org

Live Lessons

There are more and more children logging on to the live lessons, I hope they are finding the well-being sessions beneficial and enjoy spending time with their class, albeit virtually.

From the week beginning 1st February we will have two live lessons as follows:

Tuesday - Well-being

Thursday - English - Vocabulary



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We hope to continue to build up the number of live lessons that we are able to offer. As usual, the code to access the Google Meet sessions will be available in your child's Google Classroom. **Please do not call the office to enquire about the code because they will not have this information.** The timetable for these live lessons via Google Meet is below:

Time	Year Group
9:30	Nursery
10:00	Year 1
10:30	Year 2
11:00	Year 3
1:00	Year 4
1:30	Year 5
2:00	Year 6
2:30	Reception

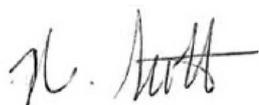
Covid Testing

As you know there are a number of community testing facilities that have recently opened up in Newham to allow residents to test if they are not symptomatic. As you know, it is possible to have Covid and transmit the virus without showing any symptoms. These community testing centers are now offering testing to children as follows:

- Children aged 16+ can attend community test sites unaccompanied as they are able to consent to medical treatment
- Children aged 12-15 can attend with a parent or guardian and can self-swab under the supervision of that parent or guardian
- Children aged 5-11 can attend with a parent or guardian but the parent or guardian must complete the test on the child
- Testing is not available to under 5's

As I am sure you know, we are not able to test children in school.

God Bless,



Natasha Scott
Head Teacher

